

**Report from the Mandated Benefit Task Force
To the Legislative Council
Pursuant to IC 27-1-3-30
December 14, 2006**

The Mandated Benefit Task Force had a productive year in 2006. The Task Force met eight times during the year. The following is a summary of its activities:

1. During the first part of 2006, the Task Force finished its report on the full cost of existing mandated health benefits in Indiana and submitted it to the Legislative Council. Also during the first part of 2006, the Task Force membership grew to its statutory size of ten members. The members of the Task Force are: Chairperson Susan Reed Schwab, Esq. (Insurance Industry Representative), Holly King (Insurance Industry Representative), Jennifer Berday (Consumer Representative), Carol Cutter (Department of Insurance Representative), David Delaney (Health Care Provider Representative), Steven Fero (Business Sector Representative), Richard G. Lucht (Consumer Representative), and Pat Beyland (Business Representative). Howell Pugh (Independent Actuary) and Todd Rankin (Health Care Provider Representative) have recently resigned. Keith Powell, the Department of Insurance Actuary, has continued to provide the Task Force with invaluable assistance.

2. In the late spring, the Task Force had discussions concerning how it might more effectively provide information and analysis on mandated health benefits in 2006 and later years. The Task Force members all felt that a repetition of the total mandated benefits cost survey and report in 2006 would not be a good use of the Task Force's time and resources. This conclusion was reached based on the following factors: 1) the potential impact of a second survey would not likely yield different results, and 2) the report results were based on incomplete and imprecise survey information due to a lack of funds to pay for external expertise and incomplete information produced by insurers (in part because there is no legal requirement to participate in the survey).

3. The Task Force met with Senator Patricia Miller and Representative Michael Ripley on August 29 to discuss the focus of the Task Force's work. As a result of that meeting, the Task Force has been working recently on some proposed revisions to the Task Force law at Indiana Code 27-1-3-30, which it hopes will be offered in a bill in the upcoming legislative session.

Respectfully Submitted by the Members of the Mandated Benefits Task Force